

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2378

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, XF

SUBJECT: SYG WALDHEIM'S PRESS REMARKS IN BEIRUT AND AMMAN

1. UN OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION CIRCULATED PRESS
RELEASES ON SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM'S PRESS CONFERENCES
WHEN LEAVING BEIRUT AND UPON ARRIVING AT AMMAN.

2. AT BEIRUT AIRPORT: A) IN A STATEMENT AT THE
AIRPORT, THE SECRETARY-GENERAL SAID THAT HE HAD EXTENSIVE
TALKS ON THE SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY AND THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEMS
WITH PRESIDENT SARKIS, THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE DEPUTY
PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER, SINCE HIS ARRIVAL ON
7 FEBRUARY.

CONCERNING HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON AND THE ROLE
OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN THE RECONSTRUCTION EFFORT,
HE SAID: "I HAVE VISITED PERSONALLY SOME OF THE DESTR-
OYED QUARTERS OF THE CITY AND I WAS DEEPLY IMPRESSED AND
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SHOCKED BY THE TREMENDOUS DIMENSION OF THE DESTRUCTION WHICH
I SAW AND IT IS QUITE CLEAR THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMM-
UNITY AND THE UNITED NATIONS, IN PARTICULAR, MUST MAKE
EVERY ATTEMPT TO HELP LEBANON IN THIS FIELD."

REGARDING THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION, THE SECRETARY-GEN-
ERAL SAID HE HAD CONVEYED TO THE GOVERNMENT HIS IMPRESSIONS
ON HIS TALKS DURING HIS PRESENT TRIP AND LISTENED CAREFULLY

TO THE VIEWS OF LEBANESE OFFICIALS. THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT HAD CLEARLY EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO SEE AN EARLY SOLUTION OF THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM IN ALL ITS ASPECTS BECAUSE IT WAS EVIDENT THAT THE FUTURE OF LEBANON WAS CLOSELY INTERLINKED WITH THE SOLUTION OF THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM. IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION, MR WALDHEIM SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED THE SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON WITH A VIEW TO AVOIDING A DETERIORATION IN THE SITUATION. IT WAS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S IMPRESSION THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS DOING ITS BEST TO STABILIZE THE SITUATION THERE AND AVOID AGGRAVATING IT.

3. AT AMMAN AIRPORT: B) AT AN AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE, THE SECRETARY-GENERAL STATED THAT THE PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT TO THE MIDDLE EAST WAS TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION WITH THE PARTIES CONCERNED, TO LISTEN TO THEIR VIEWS AND TO FIND OUT IN WHAT WAY THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS AND ESPECIALLY THE GENEVA CONFERENCE COULD BE RESUMED. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL STATED AGAIN THAT, IN THE COUNTRIES HE HAD VISITED SO FAR DURING HIS PRESENT VISIT, HE HAD NOTICED A VERY STRONG INTEREST IN RESUMING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AND TO NEGOTIATE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE PROBLEM. HE SAID HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO HIS TALKS WITH KING HUSSEIN AND WITH PRIME MINISTER, EXPRESSING THE HOPE THE TALKS WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO BRINGING NEARER A SOLUTION OF THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM. IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS, THE SECRETARY-GENERAL EXPRESSED AGAIN HIS "FIRM IMPRESSION" THAT THE LEADERS HE HAD TALKED TO WERE SERIOUSLY INTERESTED IN RESUMING THE NEGOTIATING

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PROCESS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AND TO GET DOWN TO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE PROBLEM RATHER THAN HAVING A PROCEDURAL DISCUSSION. ASKED TO COMMENT ON A STATEMENT MADE ON TUESDAY BY ISRAEL'S FOREIGN MINISTER YIGAL ALLON, THE SECRETARY-GENERAL RECALLED THAT HE HAD BEEN ASSURED BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE BY THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT THAT THEY WERE LOOKING FORWARD TO HIS VISIT AND INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING THE SITUATION WITH HIM. ASKED IF HE HAD TAKEN MR. ALLON'S STATEMENT "PERSONALLY", THE SECRETARY-GENERAL REPLIED: "NO, NOT AT ALL." THE STATEMENT AS HE HAD READ IT FROM PRESS REPORTS INDICATED NO CHANGE IN THE ATTITUDE OF ISRAEL TOWARD THE UNITED NATIONS. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT TO ISRAEL WOULD HELP OVERCOME SOME OF THE DIFFICULTIES AND THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO CLARIFY THE POSITIONS. BENNETT

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